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Please find below and/or attached an Office communication concerning this application or proceeding.

Office Action Summary

Application No.

10/771,603

Applicant(s)

PARK ET AL.

Examiner

Li Liu

Art Unit

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-- The MAILING DATE of this communication appears on the cover sheet with the correspondence address --

Period for Reply

A SHORTENED STATUTORY PERIOD FOR REPLY IS SET TO EXPIRE 3 MONTH(S) OR THIRTY (30) DAYS, WHICHEVER IS LONGER, FROM THE MAILING DATE OF THIS COMMUNICATION.

- Extensions of time may be available under the provisions of 37 CFR 1.136(a). In no event, however, may a reply be timely filed after SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- If NO period for reply is specified above, the maximum statutory period will apply and will expire SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- Failure to reply within the set or extended period for reply will, by statute, cause the application to become ABANDONED (35 U.S.C. § 133). Any reply received by the Office later than three months after the mailing date of this communication, even if timely filed, may reduce any earned patent term adjustment. See 37 CFR 1.704(b).

Status

- 1) ☒ Responsive to communication(s) filed on 04 February 2004.
- 2a) ☐ This action is **FINAL**. 2b) ☒ This action is non-final.
- 3) ☐ Since this application is in condition for allowance except for formal matters, prosecution as to the merits is closed in accordance with the practice under *Ex parte Quayle*, 1935 C.D. 11, 453 O.G. 213.

Disposition of Claims

- 4) ☒ Claim(s) 1-20 is/are pending in the application.
- 4a) Of the above claim(s) _____ is/are withdrawn from consideration.
- 5) ☐ Claim(s) _____ is/are allowed.
- 6) ☒ Claim(s) 1-20 is/are rejected.
- 7) ☐ Claim(s) _____ is/are objected to.
- 8) ☐ Claim(s) _____ are subject to restriction and/or election requirement.

Application Papers

- 9) ☒ The specification is objected to by the Examiner.
- 10) ☒ The drawing(s) filed on 04 February 2004 is/are: a) ☒ accepted or b) ☐ objected to by the Examiner.
Applicant may not request that any objection to the drawing(s) be held in abeyance. See 37 CFR 1.85(a).
Replacement drawing sheet(s) including the correction is required if the drawing(s) is objected to. See 37 CFR 1.121(d).
- 11) ☐ The oath or declaration is objected to by the Examiner. Note the attached Office Action or form PTO-152.

Priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119

- 12) ☒ Acknowledgment is made of a claim for foreign priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119(a)-(d) or (f).
- a) ☒ All b) ☐ Some * c) ☐ None of:
1. ☒ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received.
2. ☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received in Application No. _____.
3. ☐ Copies of the certified copies of the priority documents have been received in this National Stage application from the International Bureau (PCT Rule 17.2(a)).

* See the attached detailed Office action for a list of the certified copies not received.

Attachment(s)

- 1) ☒ Notice of References Cited (PTO-892)
- 2) ☐ Notice of Draftsperson's Patent Drawing Review (PTO-948)
- 3) ☐ Information Disclosure Statement(s) (PTO/SB/08)
Paper No(s)/Mail Date _____.
- 4) ☐ Interview Summary (PTO-413)
Paper No(s)/Mail Date. _____.
- 5) ☐ Notice of Informal Patent Application
- 6) ☐ Other: _____.

DETAILED ACTION

Specification

1. The disclosure is objected to because of the following informalities: page 12, line 23, the "10:90" should be deleted.

Appropriate correction is required.

Claim Rejections - 35 USC § 102

2. The following is a quotation of the appropriate paragraphs of 35 U.S.C. 102 that form the basis for the rejections under this section made in this Office action:

A person shall be entitled to a patent unless –

(e) the invention was described in (1) an application for patent, published under section 122(b), by another filed in the United States before the invention by the applicant for patent or (2) a patent granted on an application for patent by another filed in the United States before the invention by the applicant for patent, except that an international application filed under the treaty defined in section 351(a) shall have the effects for purposes of this subsection of an application filed in the United States only if the international application designated the United States and was published under Article 21(2) of such treaty in the English language.

3. Claims 1, 2 and 18-20 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 102(e) as being anticipated by Choi et al (US 2005/0031348).

1). With regard to claim 1, Choi et al discloses a wavelength division multiplexing (WDM) hubbed ring network (Figure 1) in which one central office is connected to a plurality of remote nodes by one optical transmission line, said network comprising:

said one central office (CO in Figure 1), said one central office being configured for generating a high-priority optical signal (the normal signal from TX1 and MUX1 in Figure 1, [0011]) and a low-priority optical signal (the redundancy signal from TX2 and MUX2 in Figure 1, [0011] and [0012]) at each wavelength corresponding to a channel in

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a first channel group (the transmitted $\lambda_1, \lambda_2 \dots \lambda_n$), WDM-multiplexing (two multiplexers MUX1 and MUX2 in Figure 1) high-priority optical signals and low-priority optical signals of respective channels in the first channel group, transmitting the multiplexed optical signals to each of the remote nodes in different directions ring-wise a round said ring network by means of said one optical transmission line (Single Fiber Bi-directional, the normal signal and redundancy signal are transmitted in opposite directions), and receiving from said remote nodes, at each wavelength corresponding to a channel in a second channel group (the added $\lambda_1, \lambda_2 \dots \lambda_n$ from remote nodes) and in respectively different directions ring-wise around said ring network, a high-priority optical signal (received by RX1 in Figure 1) and a low-priority optical signal (received by RX2 in Figure 1); and

said remote nodes (RN1 etc in Figure 1), said remote nodes being configured for receiving (the Add/Drop in Figure 1 is shown in Figure 3, the different between the Figure 1 and Figure 2 is the center office CO) from said central office by means of said one optical transmission line and in respectively different directions ring-wise around said ring network a high-priority optical signal (received by PD 133 in the Master of Figure 4) and a low-priority optical signal (received by PD 141 in the Slave of Figure 4) at a common wavelength that corresponds to a respective channel in the first channel group (Figure 3, [0018]), generating a high-priority optical signal (Figure 3, [0018], Master Channel in Figure 4) and a low-priority optical signal (Figure 3, [0018], Slave Channel in Figure 4) at a common wavelength corresponding to any channel in the second channel group (the added $\lambda_1, \lambda_2 \dots \lambda_n$ from remote nodes), and transmitting (LD

131 and 143 in Figure 4) to the central office by means of said one optical transmission line and in respectively different directions ring-wise around said ring network the generated high-priority and low-priority optical signals at said common wavelength corresponding to said any channel in the second channel group (Figure 3, [0018]).

2). With regard to claim 2, Choi et al discloses all of the subject matter as applied to claim 1 above, and Choi et al further discloses wherein said central office comprises:

a plurality of light sources (TX1 and TX2 etc in Figure 1) for generating a high-priority optical signal and a low-priority optical signal for each channel in the first channel group;

multiplexers for WDM-multiplexing the high-priority optical signal (MUX1 in Figure 1) and the low-priority optical signal (MUX2 in Figure 1) of each channel in the first channel group;

demultiplexers for demultiplexing a high-priority optical signal (MUX1 in Figure 1) and a low-priority optical signal (MUX2 in Figure 1) of each channel in the second channel group, transmitted bidirectionally from the optical transmission line; and

a plurality of receivers (RX1 and RX2 in Figure 1) for receiving the demultiplexed high-priority optical signal and low-priority optical signal for each channel.

3). With regard to claim 18, Choi et al et discloses a central office of a wavelength division multiplexing (WDM) hubbed ring network in which one central office is connected to a plurality of remote nodes by one optical transmission line, said central office being configured for generating a high-priority optical signal (the normal signal from TX1 and MUX1 in Figure 1, [0011]) and a low-priority optical signal (the

redundancy signal from TX2 and MUX2 in Figure 1, [0011] and [0012]) at each wavelength corresponding to a channel in a first channel group (the transmitted $\lambda_1, \lambda_2 \dots \lambda_n$), WDM-multiplexing (two multiplexers MUX1 and MUX2 in Figure 1) high-priority optical signals and low-priority optical signals of respective channels in the first channel group, transmitting the multiplexed optical signals to each of the remote nodes (RN1 etc, in Figure 1) in different directions ring-wise a round said ring network by means of said one optical transmission line (Single Fiber Bi-directional), and receiving (RX1 and RX 2 in Figure 1) from said remote nodes, at each wavelength corresponding to a channel in a second channel group and in respectively different directions ring-wise around said ring network, a high-priority optical signal (received by RX1 in Figure 1) and a low-priority optical signal (received by RX2 in Figure 1).

4). With regard to claim 19, Choi et al discloses all of the subject matter as applied to claim 18 above, and Choi et al further discloses that said network further comprising said remote nodes, said remote nodes (RN1 etc in Figure 1) being configured for receiving (the Add/Drop in Figure 1 is shown in Figure 3, the difference between the Figure 1 and Figure 2 is the center office CO) from said central office by means of said one optical transmission line and in respectively different directions ring-wise around said ring network a high-priority optical signal (from TX1 and MUX1 of CO in Figure 4, and received by Master in Figure 4; and ADD/DROP in Figure 3, [0018]) and a low-priority optical signal (from TX2 and MUX2 of CO in Figure 1, and received by Slave in Figure 4; and ADD/DROP in Figure 3, [0018]) at a common wavelength that corresponds to a respective channel in the first channel group.

5). With regard to claim 20, Choi et al discloses all of the subject matter as applied to claim 18 and 19 above, and Choi et al further discloses said remote nodes being further configured for generating a high-priority optical signal (Master Channel in Figure 4) and a low-priority optical signal (Slave Channel in Figure 4) at a common wavelength corresponding to any channel in the second channel group (the added $\lambda_1, \lambda_2 \dots \lambda_n$ from remote nodes), and transmitting to the central office by means of said one optical transmission line and in respectively different directions ring-wise around said ring network the generated high-priority and low-priority optical signals at said common wavelength corresponding to said any channel in the second channel group (master channel and slave channel are transmitted in opposite directions, Figure 3, [0018], Figure 4).

Claim Rejections - 35 USC § 103

4. The following is a quotation of 35 U.S.C. 103(a) which forms the basis for all obviousness rejections set forth in this Office action:

(a) A patent may not be obtained though the invention is not identically disclosed or described as set forth in section 102 of this title, if the differences between the subject matter sought to be patented and the prior art are such that the subject matter as a whole would have been obvious at the time the invention was made to a person having ordinary skill in the art to which said subject matter pertains. Patentability shall not be negated by the manner in which the invention was made.

5. Claims 3-5 and 12-17 rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over Choi et al (US 2005/0031348) as applied to claims 1-2 above, and in view of Arecco (US 6,400,476) and Oberg et al (US 2005/0084262).

1). With regard to claim 3, Choi et al discloses all of the subject matter as applied to claims 1 and 2 above.

But Choi et al does not expressly discloses: (A) first optical switches for setting a path to the multiplexers, according to priorities, for the high-priority optical signal and the low-priority optical signal of each channel in the first channel group from the light sources; and (B) second optical switches for setting a path to the receivers according to priorities, for the high-priority optical signal and the low-priority optical signal of each channel in the second channel group, transmitted bidirectionally from the optical transmission line.

However, Arecco discloses the first optical switches (131 in Figure 1, column 5 line 9-43, and column 7 line 24-30) for setting a path to the multiplexers, according to priorities, for the high-priority optical signal and the low-priority optical signal of each channel in the first channel group from the light sources; and second optical switches (132 in Figure 1, column 5 line 9-43, and column 7 line 24-30) for setting a path to the receivers according to priorities, for the high-priority optical signal and the low-priority optical signal of each channel in the second channel group, transmitted bidirectionally from the optical transmission line.

By monitoring and switching, traffic can be controlled or routed. Therefore, it would have been obvious to one of ordinary skill in the art at the time the invention was made to use the switches taught by Arecco to the system of Choi et al so that a low cost single fiber system with high priority channels being protected can be obtained.

2). With regard to claim 4, Choi et al in view of Arecco and Oberg et al discloses all of the subject matter as applied to claims 1-3 above. But Choi et al does not discloses wherein said central office monitors presence/absence of a system failure by

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measuring for each channel the output created by the demultiplexer in the demultiplexing of said high-priority optical signal.

However, Arecco discloses the monitoring presence/absence of a system failure (column 5 line 27-30, Figure 2).

By monitoring and switching, traffic can be controlled or routed. Therefore, it would have been obvious to one of ordinary skill in the art at the time the invention was made to apply the monitoring taught by Arecco to the system of Choi et al so that a low cost single fiber system with high priority channels being protected can be obtained.

3). With regard to claim 5, Choi et al in view of Arecco and Oberg et al discloses all of the subject matter as applied to claims 1-4 above. But Choi et al does not expressly disclose optical couplers, photo diodes and optical switch control circuits.

However, Arecco further discloses wherein said central office comprises:

optical couplers (222 in Figure 2) each connected to an output terminal of each channel's optical signal from the demultiplexer for demultiplexing the high-priority optical signal in the second channel group, the optical coupler extracting a high-priority optical signal;

photo diodes (219 in Figure 2) connected to the associated optical couplers, for detecting optical power of each channel's optical signal; and

optical switch control circuits (220 and 221 in Figure 2) connected to the associated photo diodes, for simultaneously controlling the optical switches according to optical powers detected by the photo diodes.

By monitoring the signal loss, traffic can be controlled or routed. Therefore, it would have been obvious to one of ordinary skill in the art at the time the invention was made to apply the monitoring taught by Arecco to the system of Choi et al so that a low cost single fiber system with high priority channels being protected can be obtained.

4). With regard to claim 12, Choi et al in view of Arecco and Oberg et al discloses all of the subject matter as applied to claims 1 and 2 above. But Choi et al does not expressly disclose wherein the central office further comprises a circulator connected to the optical transmission line, for outputting the multiplexed optical signals in the first channel group from the multiplexers to the optical transmission line, and outputting the optical signals in the second channel group, received from the optical transmission line, to the demultiplexers.

However, Oberg et al discloses a circulator (39 in Figure 6) connected to the optical transmission line, for outputting the multiplexed optical signals in the first channel group from the multiplexers to the optical transmission line, and outputting the optical signals in the second channel group, received from the optical transmission line, to the demultiplexers.

Therefore, it would have been obvious to one of ordinary skill in the art at the time the invention was made to apply circulator taught by Oberg et al to the system of Choi et al so that the a low cost single fiber bi-directional system with high priority channels being protected can be obtained.

5). With regard to claim 13, Choi et al in view of Arecco and Oberg et al discloses all of the subject matter as applied to claim 1 above, and Choi et al further discloses wherein each of the remote nodes comprises:

light sources (131 and 143 in Figure 4) for generating, for a given channel in the second channel group, an optical signal having higher priority (131 in Figure 4) and an optical signal having lower priority (143 in Figure 4);

a bidirectional add/drop multiplexer (Figure 3) for dropping a high-priority optical signal and a low-priority optical signal of a given channel in the first channel group, transmitted from the optical transmission line, and adding to said optical transmission line the optical signals generated for said given channel in the second channel group; and

receivers (PD 133 and PD 141 in Figure 4) for receiving the dropped optical signals.

6). With regard to claim 14, Choi et al in view of Arecco and Oberg et al discloses all of the subject matter as applied to claims 1 and 13 above. But Choi does not expressly disclose wherein each of the remote nodes further comprises an optical switch installed between the bidirectional add/drop multiplexer and said optical transmission line, for performing a switching operation so that in case of a system failure, the optical signal having higher priority can be recovered first.

However, Oberg et al discloses an optical switch (33 in Figures 4, 6 and 11) installed between the bidirectional add/drop multiplexer and said optical transmission

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line, for performing a switching operation so that in case of a system failure, the optical signal having higher priority can be recovered first ([0070]-[0073]).

Oberg et al teaches the high priority signal protection and cost saving: a common wavelength is used for both high priority and low priority channels, no extra wavelength is occupied.

Therefore, it would have been obvious to one of ordinary skill in the art at the time the invention was made to use a switch taught by Oberg et al to the system of Choi et al so that the high priority channels can be protected and the a bidirectional low cost single fiber system can be obtained.

7). With regard to claim 15, Choi et al in view of Arecco and Oberg et al discloses all of the subject matter as applied to claims 1, 13 and 14 above. But Choi does not expressly disclose wherein each of the remote nodes monitors presence/absence of a system failure by measuring a high-priority optical signal of a channel in the first channel group, said optical signal of a channel in the first channel group having been transmitted from the optical transmission line for said measuring.

However, Oberg et al discloses that the remote node monitors presence/absence of a system failure by measuring a high-priority optical signal of a channel in the first channel group, said optical signal of a channel in the first channel group having been transmitted from the optical transmission line for said measuring (power monitor 37 in Figure 4 and 6)

Oberg et al teaches the high priority signal protection and cost saving: a common wavelength is used for both high priority and low priority channels, no extra wavelength is occupied.

Therefore, it would have been obvious to one of ordinary skill in the art at the time the invention was made to use a switch taught by Oberg et al to the system of Choi et al so that the high priority channels can be protected and the a bidirectional low cost single fiber system can be obtained.

8). With regard to claim 16, Choi et al in view of Arecco and Oberg et al discloses all of the subject matter as applied to claims 1 and 13-15 above. And Oberg et al further discloses wherein each of the remote nodes comprises:

optical couplers ([0064]) each connected to the optical transmission line where a high-priority optical signal is received in a normal state, for extracting a high-priority optical signal;

a photo diode (37 in Figures 4, 6 and 8) for detecting an optical power of a high-priority optical signal extracted by an optical coupler of said optical couplers; and

an optical switch control circuit ([0064] and [0072]) connected to the photo diode, for controlling the optical switch of the respective remote node according the detected optical power.

9). With regard to claim 17, Choi et al in view of Arecco and Oberg et al discloses all of the subject matter as applied to claims 1 and 13-16 above. And Oberg et al further discloses wherein the optical switch in each remote node comprises a 2x2 optical switch (33 in Figures 4, 6 and 11) having two pairs of ports, each pair being, in

said ring network, ring-wise on opposite sides of the bidirectional add/drop multiplexer, wherein the ports of one of the two pairs are connected in parallel to the ports of the other of the two pairs in a normal state, whereas the connections to the other of the two pairs of ports are reconfigured to swap respective sources from among said one of the two pairs in response to a system failure ([0064], [0072], [0073] and [0090]-[0093]).

For claim 16 and 17, Oberg et al teaches the monitoring and switching. By monitoring the signal loss, traffic can be controlled or routed. Therefore, it would have been obvious to one of ordinary skill in the art at the time the invention was made to apply the monitoring and switches taught by Arecco to the system of Choi et al so that a low cost single fiber system with high priority channels being protected can be obtained.

6. Claims 6-11 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over Choi et al (US 2005/0031348) and Arecco (US 6,400,476) and Oberg et al (US 2005/0084262) as applied to claims 1-3 above, and in further view of Fang et al (US 6,504,963)

1). With regard to claim 6, Choi et al in view of Arecco and Oberg et al discloses all of the subject matter as applied to claims 1-3 above. But Choi et al does not disclose wherein the first optical switches are individually selectively actuatable to heal the network in response to topologically where on the ring network a break in the optical transmission line has occurred.

Arecco discloses one optical switch (131 in Figure 1, column 5 line 9-43, and column 7 line 24-30) for setting a path according to priorities, and the switch is actuatable to heal the network. But since Arecco only gives one example of a single

wavelength transmitted in the ring, not show that the optical switches are individually selectively actuatable to heal the network in response to topologically where on the ring network a break in the optical transmission line has occurred.

However, Fang et al discloses a switch system in which switches are individually selectively actuatable to heal the network in response to topologically where on the ring network a break in the optical transmission line has occurred (Figures 5-8, column 5 line 33 to column 6 line 26).

Therefore, it would have been obvious to one of ordinary skill in the art at the time the invention was made to use the switches taught by Fang and Arecco et al to the system of Choi et al so that the a low cost single fiber system with high priority channels being protected can be obtained.

2). With regard to claim 7, Choi et al in view of Arecco and Oberg and Fang et al discloses all of the subject matter as applied to claims 1-3 and 6 above. But Choi et al does not disclose wherein the healing preferentially provides for the first channel group a transmission path along the optical transmission line to a high-priority signal over its respective low-priority signal at said common wavelength.

However, Arecco discloses wherein the healing preferentially provides for the first channel group a transmission path along the optical transmission line to a high-priority signal over its respective low-priority signal at said common wavelength (column 5 line 20-43, when breakdown occurs, the high priority channel utilizes in both directions of propagation the complementary network path previously used by the low priority channel. Low priority traffic is lost until the situation returns to normal).

Arecco teaches the high priority signal protection and cost saving. Therefore, it would have been obvious to one of ordinary skill in the art at the time the invention was made to apply the healing scheme taught by Arecco to the system of Choi et al so that the high priority channels can be protected and the a bidirectional low cost single fiber system can be obtained.

3). With regard to claim 8, Choi et al in view of Arecco and Oberg et al discloses all of the subject matter as applied to claims 1-3, 6 and 7 above. But Choi et al does not disclose wherein the second optical switches are individually selectively actuatable to heal the network in response to topologically where on the ring network a break in the optical transmission line has occurred.

Arecco discloses one optical switch (132 in Figure 1, column 5 line 9-43, and column 7 line 24-30) for setting a path according to priorities, and the switch is actuatable to heal the network. But since Arecco only give one example of single wavelength ring, not show that the optical switches are individually selectively actuatable to heal the network in response to topologically where on the ring network a break in the optical transmission line has occurred.

However, Fang et al discloses a switch system in which switches are individually selectively actuatable to heal the network in response to topologically where on the ring network a break in the optical transmission line has occurred (Figures 5-8, column 5 line 33 to column 6 line 26).

Therefore, it would have been obvious to one of ordinary skill in the art at the time the invention was made to use the switches taught by Fang and Arecco et al to the

system of Choi et al so that the a low cost single fiber system with high priority channels being protected can be obtained.

4). With regard to claim 9, Choi et al in view of Arecco and Oberg and Fang et al discloses all of the subject matter as applied to claims 1-3 and 6-8 above. But Choi et al does not disclose wherein the healing preferentially provides for the second channel group a transmission path along the optical transmission line to a high-priority signal over its respective low-priority signal at said common wavelength.

However, Arecco further discloses wherein the healing preferentially provides for the second channel group a transmission path along the optical transmission line to a high-priority signal over its respective low-priority signal at said common wavelength (column 5 line 20-43, when breakdown occurs, the high priority channel utilizes in both directions of propagation the complementary network path previously used by the low priority channel. Low priority traffic is lost until the situation returns to normal).

Arecco teaches the high priority signal protection and cost saving. Therefore, it would have been obvious to one of ordinary skill in the art at the time the invention was made to apply the healing scheme taught by Arecco to the system of Choi et al so that the high priority channels can be protected and the a bidirectional low cost single fiber system can be obtained.

5). With regard to claim 10, Choi et al in view of Arecco and Oberg et al discloses all of the subject matter as applied to claims 1-3 above. But Choin et al does not disclose wherein the second optical switches are individually selectively actuatable to

heal the network in response to topologically where on the ring network a break in the optical transmission line has occurred.

Arecco discloses one optical switch (132 in Figure 1, column 5 line 9-43, and column 7 line 24-30) for setting a path according to priorities, and the switch is actuatable to heal the network. But since Arecco only gives one example of single wavelength ring, not show that the optical switches are individually selectively actuatable to heal the network in response to topologically where on the ring network a break in the optical transmission line has occurred.

However, Fang et al discloses a switch system in which switches are individually selectively actuatable to heal the network in response to topologically where on the ring network a break in the optical transmission line has occurred (Figures 5-8, column 5 line 33 to column 6 line 26).

Therefore, it would have been obvious to one of ordinary skill in the art at the time the invention was made to use the switches taught by Fang and Arecco et al to the system of Choi et al so that the a low cost single fiber system with high priority channels being protected can be obtained.

6). With regard to claim 11, Choi et al in view of Arecco and Oberg and Fang et al discloses all of the subject matter as applied to claims 1-3 and 10 above. But Choi et al does not disclose wherein the healing preferentially provides for the second channel group a transmission path along the optical transmission line to a high-priority signal over its respective low-priority signal at said common wavelength

However, Arecco further discloses wherein the healing preferentially provides for the second channel group a transmission path along the optical transmission line to a high-priority signal over its respective low-priority signal at said common wavelength (column 5 line 20-43, when breakdown occurs, the high priority channel utilizes in both directions of propagation the complementary network path previously used by the low priority channel. Low priority traffic is lost until the situation returns to normal).

Arecco teaches the high priority signal protection and cost saving. Therefore, it would have been obvious to one of ordinary skill in the art at the time the invention was made to apply the healing scheme taught by Arecco et al to the system of Choi et al so that the high priority channels can be protected and the a bidirectional low cost single fiber system can be obtained.

Conclusion

7. The prior art made of record and not relied upon is considered pertinent to applicant's disclosure.

Shen et al (Shen et al: "A Novel Single-Fiber Bidirectional Optical Add/Drop Multiplexer for Distribution Networks", Optical Fiber Communication Conference and Exhibit, 2001. OFC 2001, Vol. 3, page(s): WY5-1- WY5-3) discloses a single fiber bi-directional networks.

Duerksen et al (US 6,321,004) discloses a protectin switching in bidirectional WDM optical networks.

Sakano et al (US 2001/0026384) discloses a single fiber low-cost optical network with switches in center node.

Sato (US 6,477,288) discloses a optical line switching system for ring networks.

Zhao et al (Zhao et al: "Novel Bi-Directional Add/Drop Module for Single Fiber Bi-Directional Self-Healing Wavelength Division Multiplexed Ring Networks", Optical Fiber Communication Conference, 1999, OFC/IOOC '99, Vol. 1, page 183-185) discloses a single-fiber bi-directional networks.

8. Any inquiry concerning this communication or earlier communications from the examiner should be directed to Li Liu whose telephone number is (571)270-1084. The examiner can normally be reached on Mon-Fri, 8:00 am - 5:30 pm, alternating Fri off.

If attempts to reach the examiner by telephone are unsuccessful, the examiner's supervisor, Ken Vanderpuye can be reached on (571)272-3078. The fax phone number for the organization where this application or proceeding is assigned is 571-273-8300.

Information regarding the status of an application may be obtained from the Patent Application Information Retrieval (PAIR) system. Status information for published applications may be obtained from either Private PAIR or Public PAIR. Status information for unpublished applications is available through Private PAIR only. For more information about the PAIR system, see <http://pair-direct.uspto.gov>. Should you have questions on access to the Private PAIR system, contact the Electronic Business Center (EBC) at 866-217-9197 (toll-free). If you would like assistance from a USPTO Customer Service Representative or access to the automated information system, call 800-786-9199 (IN USA OR CANADA) or 571-272-1000.


KENNETH VANDERPUYE
SUPERVISORY PATENT EXAMINER

Li Liu
November 6, 2006